

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and bangs, smiling warmly while holding a young child. The child is laughing with their mouth open and tongue out, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage.

protect your child from chickenpox

Chickenpox (varicella) can be serious for children and adults.

Before we had a vaccine, 11,000 people were hospitalized and about 100 people died from chickenpox every year in the United States.

About the disease

Chickenpox usually causes fever and a head-to-toe rash of very itchy blisters that can become infected and cause scarring. It can also lead to pneumonia, brain swelling, skin and blood infections, and death.

Chickenpox spreads easily and can be passed on to others one to two days before the rash appears. It spreads by coughing, sneezing, or direct contact with the blisters.

When to get the vaccine

Two doses of varicella vaccine are recommended – the first dose between **12 and 15 months**, and the second dose between **4 and 6 years** (before kindergarten).

Why should my child get the vaccine?

Chickenpox can be a mild disease, but for some people it can be more serious. There's no way to know who will become very sick and suffer from complications. People who have the disease can spread it to others who may be at high risk for severe illness.



**Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic today
to get the chickenpox vaccine.**

What are the rules for school?

To attend child care, preschool, and kindergarten, you must show proof of chicken-pox vaccination



or a doctor's signed statement that your child has had the disease. Children with chickenpox must stay home from school or child care until all blisters are crusted over, which can take more than a week. This often means parents miss work, too.

After the shot

The most common side effects of vaccine are mild and usually include pain and redness where the shot was given and sometimes a low-grade fever.

Can my child get the vaccine and still get chickenpox?



Some vaccinated children may still get chickenpox since no vaccine is 100% effective. Vaccinated children are less likely to have a fever and tend to recover more quickly. People who have had the vaccine are less likely to get shingles later in life.

Find out more

Visit the Department of Health:
www.doh.wa.gov/immunization

Find an immunization clinic
by calling:

WithinReach™

WithinReach Family Health Hotline
1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay)
or **www.ParentHelp123.org**



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